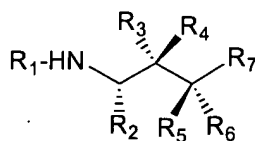


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, and 5 without prejudice.

Please enter amended claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10-19, and 21 and add new claim 23 as follows:

1. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein

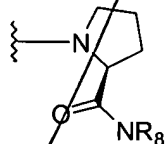
R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbobenzyloxy-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of -CH<sub>2</sub>-Phenyl, and -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl; R<sub>4</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxygen and hydroxyl, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are not both hydroxyl and wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are either not oxygen or are a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group;

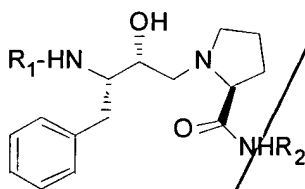
R<sub>5</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen; R<sub>6</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and oxygen, wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are either a single combined oxygen forming a carbonyl group or both separately hydrogen;

*C2*  
*Conclude*  
R<sub>7</sub> is a radical represented by the formula:



wherein R<sub>8</sub> is a radical selected from the group consisting of -(H)<sub>2</sub>, and -H(t-Butyl); with a proviso that, if either R<sub>2</sub> R<sub>3</sub> is hydroxyl, the R<sub>1</sub> is neither hydrogen nor carbobenzyloxy-.

*C3*  
3. (once amended) A stereochemcially pure protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

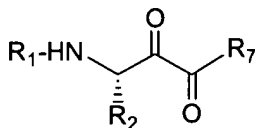


wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, carbobenzyloxy-, carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-; and

R<sub>2</sub> is a radical selected from the group consisting of -(H)<sub>2</sub>, and -H(t-Butyl).

*C4*  
6. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



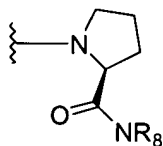
wherein

04  
conclude

$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-Phenyl}$ , and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ;

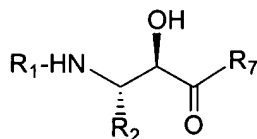
$R_7$  is a radical represented by the formula:



wherein  $R_8$  is a radical selected from the group consisting of  $-(\text{H})_2$ , and  $-\text{H}(\text{t-Butyl})$ .

05

8. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

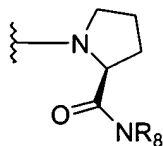


wherein

$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;

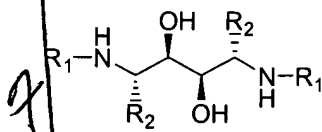
$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-Phenyl}$ , and  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ;

$R_7$  is a radical represented by the formula:



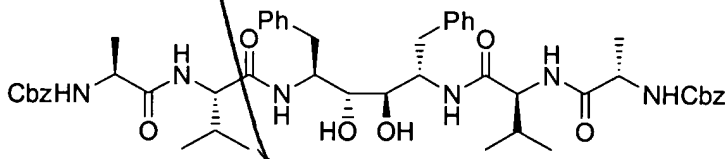
wherein  $R_8$  is a radical selected from the group consisting of  $-(H)_2$ , and  $-H(t\text{-Butyl})$ .

10. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:

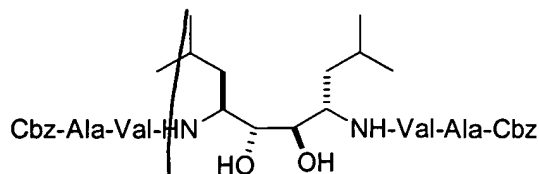


wherein  $R_1$  is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine- and carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine-;  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_2\text{-Phenyl}$ , and  $-CH_2\text{-CH}(CH_3)_2$ .

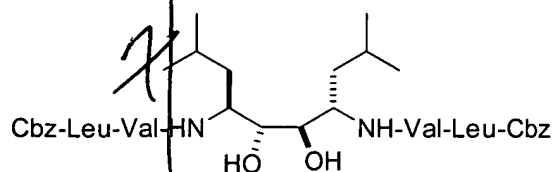
11. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



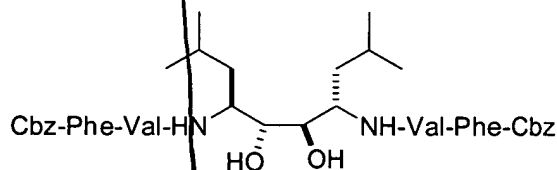
12. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



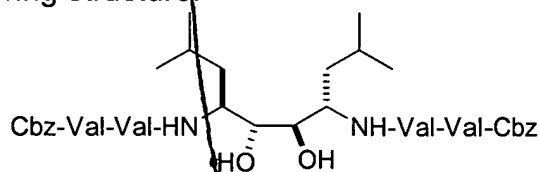
13. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



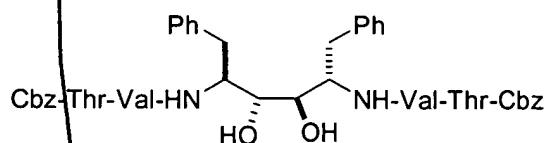
14. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:



15. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:

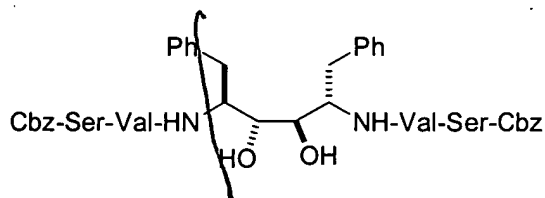


16. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:

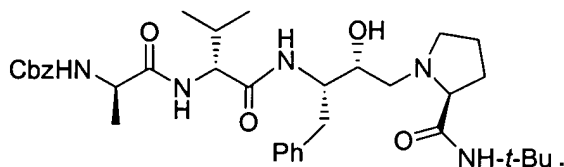


17. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 10 represented by the following structure:

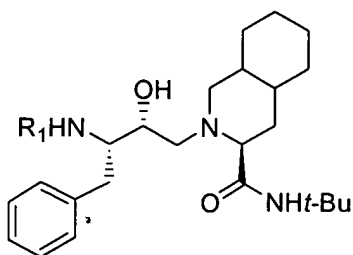
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18. (once amended) A stereochemically pure protease inhibitor according to claim 3 represented by the following structure:

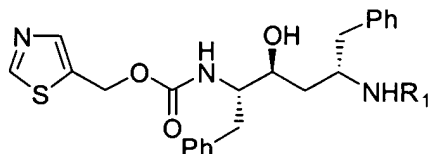


19. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-leucine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-phenylalanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-serine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-threonine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-valine-valine- and carbobenzyloxy-alanine-asparagine-.

21. (once amended) A protease inhibitor represented by the following structure:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a radical selected from the group consisting of carbobenzyloxy-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-glycine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-alanine-valine-, carbobenzyloxy-